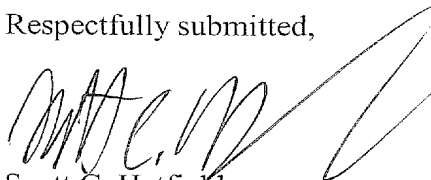


REMARKS

The Applicant sincerely appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action of October 11, 2007 ("the Office Action"). In particular, the Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 6-19, 21-31, 33-40, 42-52, 55-60, and 62-79 are allowed and that Claims 2-4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, the Applicant has canceled Claim 1; rewritten dependent Claim 2 in independent form (indicated as being allowable); rewritten dependent Claim 6 in independent form (indicated as being allowed); and rewritten dependent Claim 7 in independent form (indicated as being allowed). Dependent Claims 3 and 4 are thus allowable as least as depending from Claim 2, and dependent Claim 8 is allowable at least as depending from Claim 7. All claims have thus been placed in a condition that has been indicated as being allowed/allowable.

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that all pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone should any additional issues need to be addressed.

Respectfully submitted,



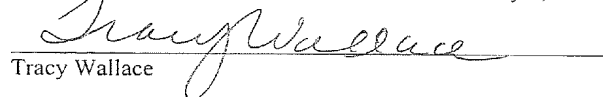
Scott C. Hatfield

Registration No.: 38,176

USPTO Customer No. 20792
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec
Post Office Box 37428
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627
Telephone: 919/854-1400
Facsimile: 919/854-1401

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 8, 2008.



Tracy Wallace